Direct Investment ceiling from 49 per cent to 74 percent in the Telecom Sector', has only been issued on 03.11.2005.

(c) As per the aforesaid Press Note, the majority Directors on the Board including Chairman, Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) shall be resident Indian citizens, enforced through licence agreement.

Quality of reception of mobile phones

172 SHRI THENNALA G. BALAKRISHNA PILLAI:
DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that quality of reception of mobile phones in our country is below international standard;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to improve this essential service by improving the quality of reception of mobile phones?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHAMAD): (a) and (b) Quality of reception of mobile phones is comparable to international standards. However, due to tremendous growth during the last two years, requiring frequent expansions, quality of services sometimes is below the QoS norms fixed by Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI)

(c) The mobile services providers are taking necessary step to install additional Base Transceiver Station (BTS) and other related equipment to provide better coverage and prescribed Quality of Services (QoS) in the areas where the bench marks are not being met.

Action against Internet service providers

173. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLY be pleased to state:

(a) whether some Internet service providers charge subscribers for value additions without obtaining their explicit consent; and

(b) if so, what action has been taken in this regards?